



Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	21 June 2023
Location	Apex Grassmarket, Edinburgh
Title of Paper	SPA Chief Executive's Report
Presented By	Lynn Brown, Chief Executive
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Yes – Summary Report from Scottish Railway Policing Committee held on 1 June 2023.

PURPOSE

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chief Executive since the last Authority Meeting.

Members are recommended to consider this report and to raise any matters for clarification or further detail with the Chief Executive.

1. Background

- 1.1. This report provides Members with an update on key Authority business not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Retirement of Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone QPM

- 2.1 As this Authority meeting will be the last for the Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone QPM I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the SPA staff to wish the Chief Constable a happy retirement. I would also like to personally thank the Chief Constable for the support he has given me in my role as Chief Executive.

3. Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (ICVS)

- 3.1 ICVS provides independent scrutiny of Police Scotland custody provision across the country. This year, ICVS celebrated its 10th anniversary at the June 2023 ICVS Annual Conference which was hosted by Vice Chair Jane Ryder. The conference recognised the dedication and commitment from all Independent Custody visitors who have volunteered for the Scheme over the past decade.
- 3.2 Recruitment of new volunteer Independent Custody Visitors will be critical to ensure ICVS continues to provide appropriate levels of oversight across the Police Scotland estate. The Authority's ICVS team have undertaken a recruitment exercise, including attending Fresher's Fairs and lectures across Scottish universities. As a result, 10 new volunteers have joined as Independent Custody Visitors. Over the coming year we will look to launch a further recruitment exercise utilising social media, explore opportunities for face to face engagement about the scheme and reviewing previous mechanisms for recruitment.
- 3.3 The ICVS Annual Report was presented to the Policing Performance Committee on 15 June 2023 and highlighted that during 2022/23, ICVS carried out over 1,000 visits to custody centres and spoke to over 1,600 people in custody. Over this reporting period ICVs have not reported any breaches of human rights or highlighted any instances of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of arrested individuals, as described by United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

4. Scottish Railways Policing Committee

- 4.1 A meeting of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee (SRPC) took place on Thursday 1 June 2023. The SPA was represented by Authority Members Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly.
- 4.2 A full report from the June 2023 meeting is included at Appendix A. The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 14 September 2023.

5 Law Enforcement & Public Health Conference 2023

- 5.1 The Authority was delighted to support Police Scotland's input to the Law Enforcement and Public Health European conference in May 2023. Delegates heard about work underway by Police Scotland to embed a public health approach to policing in Scotland, with sessions on collaborative leadership, current approaches, and operational delivery of trauma informed approaches. During the Authority chaired session, on trauma informed practice, delegates heard about the approach to officer and staff wellbeing, the positive outcomes project, and the work of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit. We will be sharing more of the content from the day over the coming months.

6 Police Scotland Youth Volunteers Braveheart Challenge

- 6.1 On Saturday 10 June 2023 the first Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) Braveheart Challenge took place, with 120 youth volunteer participants. The challenge was an opportunity for the PSYVs to show their leadership skills, and work collaboratively to develop a range of projects which will benefit their local communities. Senior Officers and Staff from Police Scotland and the Authority had the difficult job of judging the event and deciding on category winners for research, concept, skills, finance and marketing as well as best presentation and an overall winner. Well done to all the young people who took part in the day.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this report.

**Summary report from the
Scottish Railway Policing Committee**

Thursday 1 June 2023

SPA Members – Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly

BTPA Recruitment

Mr Barclay-Smith, interim SRPC chair, updated Members on the BTPA recruitment of a new Scottish Member and reported that interviews were taking place in the following weeks and that a decision on appointment would be due over the summer. Once appointed the new Scottish Member is expected to take over the chair of the Scottish Railway Policing Committee.

Risk Profile

Members received an update on the technology risk scoring, which has reduced from 16 to 12 to reflect the increasing adoption and use of technology within BTP, and the resultant reported benefits of this.

All other risk scores remain the same, however these are likely to reduce over coming months as further mitigating actions are delivered.

Policing Plan Performance quarter 4 (Q4) 22/23

As the 22/23 performance year comes to an end, the committee considered performance over the first full year without COVID restrictions since 18/19 and how, or if, crime patterns have changed.

Overall, in 22/23 recorded crime increased by 6% compared with 21/22 and by 9% compared to 18/19. While the initial crime pattern was similar in Q1 and Q2, from around September the pattern took a different direction. Due to the strikes across the country, including those from the rail industry, Q3 recorded some of the lowest levels of crime, whilst Q4 recorded some of the highest levels. Compared to pre-pandemic, the volume crime types remain the same as Violence, Criminal Damage and Theft of Passenger Property.

The committee were presented data which shows that there has been an increase over the 22-23 period (when compared to 21/22) in violence

against passengers and rail staff. This reinforces the need for on train patrolling and supports ongoing work by BTP to advocate for train staff to use Body Worn Video.

BTP also took the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to continue to work in partnership when responding to individuals with mental health vulnerabilities.

Joint working Police Scotland / BTP

In this standing update attention was drawn to Police Scotland's continued attendance at the Safer Transport meetings to identify collaborative working opportunities to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in and around the transport network.

Through this meeting Police Scotland and BTP successfully signed the partners of the Safer Transport meetings to the Your Safety Matters initiative, ensuring that all businesses involved are keeping their employees and workplaces safe, healthy and free from violence and abuse.

Committee Members praised the continued secondment of two BTP Sergeants to CJSD custody operations in Scotland. These secondments will ensure the considerations of BTP are reflected in the Scottish custody environment and provide a valuable developmental opportunity for BTP staff whilst helping to improve the knowledge of BTP priorities amongst Police Scotland colleagues. Members highlighted that there may be opportunity to replicate this model in the future across other policing divisions.

Crime Prevention Strategy 2022-2027

The BTP Force Crime Prevention Strategy (2022-27), launched in January 2023, is centred around six strategic intents tailored to its unique operating environment and is aligned to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) National Policing Prevention Strategy.

Members welcomed sight of the Strategy and asked that detail on its implementation be presented to a future committee meeting. Members were keen to understand how partnership working with the third sector could be enhanced to ensure implementation is informed by seldom heard groups and communities.

Transport Focus briefing on passenger research

Transport Focus, the independent watchdog for transport users, provided the committee with an update on relevant findings from their recent 'What Matters to Passengers' survey. This showed that personal security on the train and at stations are very important to the Scotland's population.

BTP Update on Passenger and Staff Surveys

BTP updated on their annual Public Consultation to gather the thoughts of passengers in the communities using the rail network, undertaken in Q3 of 2022/23. Around 1,800 responses were received from across the UK. Full analysis of these responses is currently underway; however, some initial headlines relating to Scotland (181 responses) were shared with the Committee. It is important to note the small sample size when considering the findings.

The top 3 priorities were (i) antisocial behaviour; (ii) violence and (iii) sexual offences.

Rail staff in the division were asked for their thoughts on BTP's presence at rail locations and how effective they think BTP are as a force.

Responses were largely negative with 88.7% (55) of respondents stating they had little or no confidence in BTPs ability to police where they work. BTP informed the Committee that work was ongoing to further understand these results and that a confidence action plan is under development.

Audit and Inspection Update Q4 2022/23

BTP is currently tracking 68 recommendations from force-wide Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) audits and HMICFRS inspections – this is an increase of 18 since the last reporting in March. There are currently no open recommendations which are specific to activity or process in Scotland.

Committee members specifically asked about vetting and were reassured that BTP were ahead of other forces when it comes to re-vetting staff and officers. BTP are however expecting that further recommendations will be made pending the publication of the HMICFRS vetting and counter-corruption report.

The Committee supported initial proposals regarding special areas of focus for Scotland from within the BTP Audit Plan. Further scoping is to be carried out and will be presented to SRPC at a future date.